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IRA C. EAKER

Raborn Good Choice for CIA

EDITOR'S NOTE: Ira C. Eaker is a renowned aerial strategist and was a top Air Force commander during World War II. He writes on military matters for the Express and News.

By IRA C. EAKER

When, on April 28, retired Vice Adm. William F. Raborn Jr. took the oath of office as director, Central Intelligence Agency, one of the critical jobs in our government was filled with a competent, dedicated man.

The director, CIA, as the principal intelligence adviser to the commander-in-chief, has a vital role in our security. We had recent evidence of this when Russian missiles almost became operational in Cuba before President Kennedy was aware of this menace.

If a wise leader had decided some 40 years ago to pick a



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young man of high intelligence, good character and great energy and give him the best training and experience to qualify him for leadership of our national intelligence system, he could scarcely have done better than to pick "Red" Raborn and prescribe the career he has followed.

AS A MIDSHIPMAN at the Naval Academy, young Raborn demonstrated the soundness of wind, limb and mind for efficient and dedicated public service. As a former naval aviator, he is aware of the uses and the limitations of airplanes. For many years airplanes have been the prime tools for intelligence collection. Airplane reconnaissance confirmed the location and status of Russian missiles in Cuba.

In the crucible of war, in combat, Raborn learned the vital importance of intelligence. It can mean victory or defeat. He saw ships and

planes intercepted and destroyed, many brave men die, due to broken codes, delayed or defective intelligence.

AS A LEADER of the scientific, research and experimental elements in both the military and the civil communities, he is current on modern possibilities for intelligence acquisition, display and communication. He knows that the master spy is no longer a Mata Hari, but a space satellite.

While head of the remarkably successful Polaris missile program, Adm. Raborn devised a new management technique called PERT (Program Evaluation Review Technique), which enabled him to produce the Navy's \$10-billion missile firing submarine fleet well ahead of schedule. PERT has now been widely adopted by industry. It is employed in the development and production of every current weapons system. Recently, a senior ci-

tizen said in my hearing, "I can't wait for PERT to hit CIA." This implies, I presume, that a proven management system can be whole-some there.

There has been persistent rumor that morale is low in CIA, due in part to its inability to reply to unfair criticism. Raborn is a leader whose trademark is high morale. Morale will rise at CIA under his direction.

THERE IS SOME evidence that CIA has been in disfavor with some members of Congress. Raborn has the confidence of the Congress, as his unanimous Senate confirmation attests. He will be helpful to CIA with Congress.

There is urgent need for close coordination and amicable cooperation between the intelligence agencies of the armed services, the Department of Defense and CIA. One of Adm. Raborn's outstanding career characteristics has been his success in getting people to work together in harmony. Jealousy and conflict of interest will be at a minimum while Raborn is the senior coordinator in the intelligence community.

It is vitally important that the head of CIA have ready access to the White House. Since he was the President's personal choice after careful deliberation, we can assume that Raborn can reach the commander-in-chief quickly when necessary.

THERE IS CONSTANT temptation to alter intelligence estimates to support policy. Those who favor our unilateral disarmament recently attempted to support that folly by reducing the estimate of Russian strength from 200 to 90 divisions. Information on enemy capability or intention must never be manipulated to support some preconceived program or policy. I do not believe that this can ever occur as long as Raborn heads CIA.